



Natural Resources Conservation Service



National Cooperative Soil Survey

Standards Standing Committee

Curtis Monger

Natl. Soil Survey Center

Lincoln, NE

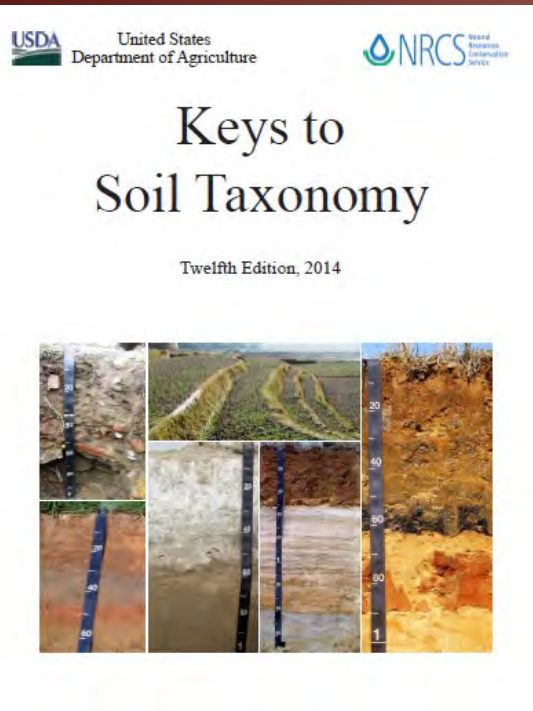
Soil Taxonomy

- Amendments Underway

- Aquic Hapludults
- Calcareous Fens
- Epi vs. Endo Saturation and the Densic Contact
- Subaqueous Soil Revisions
- Surface Mantle Clarifications

- New Proposals

- Densic Great Groups
- Spodic Horizon Designations
- Limnic horizons



Soil Taxonomy

How to find status
and original
proposals.

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Keys to Soil Taxonomy

Twelfth Edition, 2014



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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2016 NCSS Regional Standards and Taxonomy Committee Proposals

The following proposals and issues are presented for the consideration and deliberation of the 2016 NCSS Regional Committees for Standards and Taxonomy. Items under Part A are the resolutions to the proposals forwarded from Regional and National NCSS conferences since 2014. A short statement of the issue, the fix, and the cost is provided for reference. Clicking on the hyperlink will display the text as it will be integrated into the Keys to Soil Taxonomy if concurred by the regional committees.

Items under Part B are proposals received this year for first consideration at the Regional Conferences. Additional proposals will be added to the list and available for other regions to consider if sent to Dr. Curtis Monger, National Leader for Soil Survey Standards, USDA-NRCS-NSSC. The new proposals can be accessed via the hyperlink.

Items listed under Part C are presented for your review and feedback. These items are "works in progress" which would benefit from your experience and feedback. Formal proposals for adoption or amendment have not yet been developed for your complete review.

A. Resolutions to Proposals on Soil Taxonomy from the 2015 Conference

1. Aquic Hapludults – Phil King et al. (PDF: 12 KB)

What is the issue?

The variable depth (floating datum) effect upon the Aquic subgroup classification when top of the argillic determines starting point of the criteria rather than soil surface.

What is the fix?

Modify the criteria for depth to saturation/water table being determined from soil surface.

What is the cost?

Minimal, change in Aquic subgroup criteria used in the Hapludults (2 subgroups impacted). A number of series will be affected and need reclassification.
2. Calcareous Fens – Dawn Wysocki et al. (PDF: 12 KB)

Soil Taxonomy

The Guy Smith Interviews:

Rationale for Concepts in Soil Taxonomy

Guy D. Smith

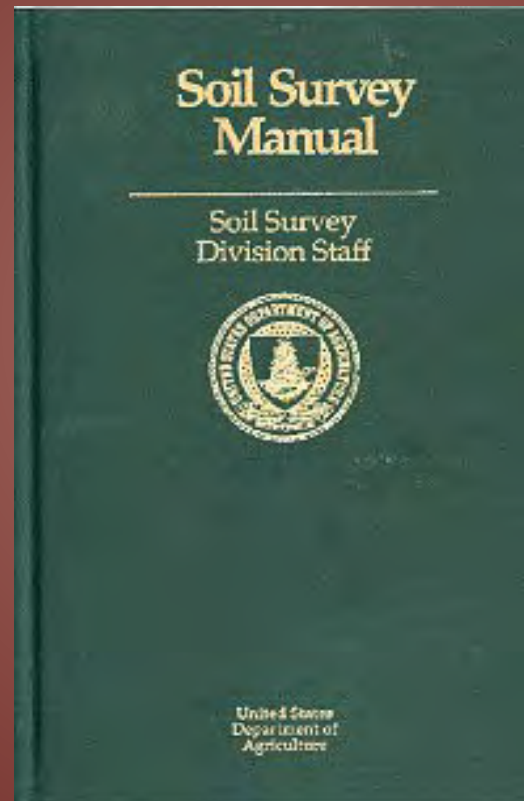


To help make Soil Taxonomy more comprehensible, we are initiating a follow-up to the Guy Smith Interviews published in 1986.

If you know the rationale for a definition in Soil Taxonomy published after 1986, please contact:

Ken Scheffe or Curtis Monger

Revising the Soil Survey Manual



Target date of 2017 for hard copy publication

Revising the Soil Survey Manual

148

CHAPTER 3 EXAMINATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SOILS

FIGURE 3-21



An area of an extremely bouldery soil (class 3).

FIGURE 4-2



Using a common pocket stereoscope.

We're looking for new photographs.

Revising the National Soil Survey Handbook

Ongoing process (e.g., Parts 609, 610, 647,)

Part 649 provides the guidance for producing the MLRA updates and the revised Ag Handbook 296.

AG HANDBOOK 296 UPDATE

WHY?

1. Concepts for boundaries have changed in some, but not all, regions
2. Increase accuracy of existing boundaries
3. Increase cartographic quality
4. Opportunity to create new LRUs if needed
5. Updated maps and definitions will enhance Ecological Site Descriptions

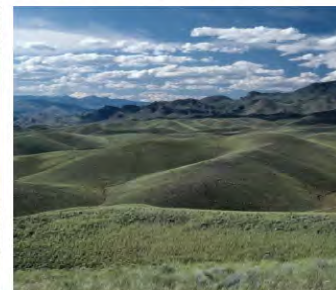
USDA United States
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Agriculture



Natural Resources
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United States Department of
Agriculture Handbook 296

Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas of the United States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin



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AG HANDBOOK 296 UPDATE

WHEN?

1. CY16 – The current status of LRUs and MLRAs will be compiled as maps at the NSSC and distributed to SSD staff and collaborators for evaluation.
2. CY17 – Regions decide which, if any, LRR, MLRA, LRU, or CRA polygons should be adjusted, created, or combined
3. CY17, CY18+ – Polygons and definitions are submitted.



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AG HANDBOOK 296 UPDATE

HOW?

Following standards in NSSH Part 649:

1. New map scales

LRR = 1:7.5 M

MLRA = 1:5 M

LRU = 1:1 M

2. Change symbol use

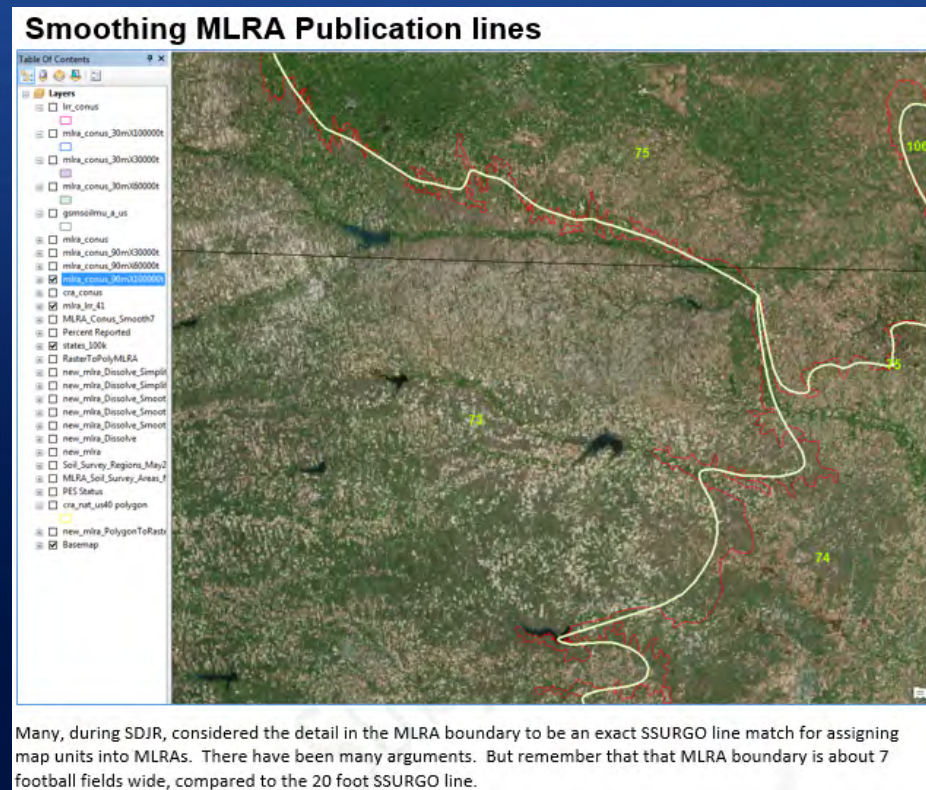
MLRA are numeric (108)

LRUs are numeric/alpha (108A, 108B)

3. Line smoothing to match map scale

4. Develop and review definitions

5. Digitally publish maps and AH296 as an on-going product



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Helping People Understand Soils



Soil Science Division Training

- 21 NEDC/SSD Courses
 - GIS Track
 - Interpretations Track
 - Tech. Soil Services Track
- 20-24 Sessions
Annually



Soil Science Division Training

➤ New SSD Resources

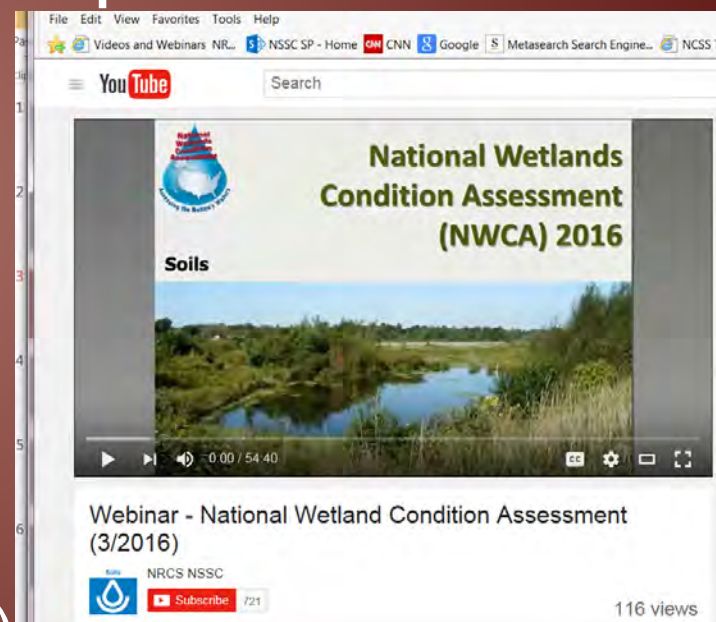
- NRCS Photo Gallery
- Guide to Pronouncing Taxonomic Terms
- Illustrated Guide to Soil Taxonomy
- Ecological Site Inventory
 - OJT Modules
 - 7 New Courses Proposed
- Statistics for Soil Survey
- Soil Property Module Series
- National Seminars Webinar Access
- Soil Science Institute Returns 2017



Soil Science Division Training

➤ Resources Beyond SSD Sponsored Training

- Videos & Webinars
- ENTSC Library
- ESRI Virtual Campus
- Training Plans
- Job Aids & OJT Modules
- External Training (SF-182)



Editing in the Standards Branch

- Edit all Standards documents.
- Edit provisional ESDs
- Scanning and posting all soil surveys online.

